

Norfolk Homeless Consortium
Healthcare Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2008

Attendees:

Yilla Smith, The Planning Council
Jenine Harland, STOP Organization
Yvonne Price, Park Place Medical Center
Barbara Willis, Park Place Medical Center
Larry Ryan, Salvation Army
Jill Gray, Union Mission
Melanie Rivera, Forkids

Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Angela King, STOP Organization
Ora Reaves, Park Place Medical Center
Dr. Subir Vij, Park Place Medical Center
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Latresa Roberson, Union Mission

I. Agenda Items

- Update on Health Care for the Homeless program at PPMC
- Transportation Update
- Medication Assistance Update
- Other business

II. Key Decisions/Action Items

Healthcare for the Homeless Update:

PPMC reported that November's numbers were up and they reached 83% of their goal for new patients (19) and 100% of their goal for established patients (49). Shelter referrals are working well. There has been a long wait when trying to get appointments with the Ambulatory Care Center for specialty care.

Flu vaccines are available so providers should be calling to get shots for their clients.

If established patients are running out of their prescriptions they can call PPMC to request that a refill be sent to the Pharmacy and it will be done within 24-48 hours.

PPMC is trying to create an outreach position to cover both Portsmouth and Norfolk clinics and looking for good candidates.

Dr. Vij is trying to follow up with EVMS to use 4th year med students at the clinic and Julie will contact Bob Alpino to help with this.

PPMC will meet with Forkids to discuss permanent slots for families with children.

Transportation Update:

The ACCESS van continues to pick-up at Union Mission on Thursdays at 12:30-12:45. Provider agencies can coordinate to get their clients on the van for the three (3) appointments each week. Call Yvonne Price to arrange for a client to go on the van (232-1196).

Medication Assistance Program Update:

Alicia reported that 71 and 72 prescriptions were filled in October and November. Some clients are not getting the prescription referrals from PPMC after their appointments and Yvonne said they sometimes leave without seeing her for a bus pass and medication referral so they will work on correcting that within PPMC.

Referral forms are available from St. Columba (627-6748) and there is a new restriction: prescriptions can be filled only three (3) times per person as this program is meant to fill the gap until the longer term medication assistance program is in place.

Life Coach Program Update:

Life Coaches reported only seeing 2 homeless persons in the Emergency Department at DePaul hospital in November. The program was also accepted to be presented at the National Health Care for the Homeless Symposium in Washington, DC in summer 2009.

III. Additional business

- The Union Mission reported that their health program has been going well. Recently DePaul hospital sent over a health educator who conducted a diabetes education class and will return for sugar checks. The Health Department is also training staff and residents on communicable diseases.
- Salvation Army held a foot clinic in November with Dr. Midas who examined 22 patients and gave out shoes and socks. The remaining items were donated to Ghent Ar ea Ministries and St. Columba's clothes closets. They are expecting to have this clinic again next year.
- HART has spoken to Salvation Army about hosting a day to conduct SOAR (Social Security) applications for homeless persons with disabilities. More details will follow. Other agencies are also interested in working with George at DHS to apply through SOAR for their clients.
- St. Columba hosts a representative from the Veterans Affairs every other Monday and anyone who is interested in connecting with them for their clients can contact Alicia Matthews at 627-6748.
- The Sentara study on Emergency Department utilization has demonstrated the impact that the Healthcare for the Homeless program has had with a reduction of repeat homeless clients seeking non-Emergency care.
- Portsmouth CHC is hosting an open house on December 12th from 10:00 – 12:00 to raise awareness about the clinic. Refreshments and door prizes will be offered.
- Julie will seek representatives from Police / Sheriff's Dept, Sentara ED and CSB to participate in the healthcare committee meetings and improve the referral process.

IV. Next Meeting: February 4, 10:00 am

NOTE: The group determined that meeting every other month is best. Meetings are held at the Park Place Medical Center Boardroom (3415 Granby Street). Parking at the church next door is fine if there are no spaces at the clinic.